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THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

J. Bell, Printer, Thirsk.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1947 There has been no outstanding circumstance of Public Health administration to record. The year was good from a Public Health point of view. No epidemic occurred and there were few cases of notifiable diseases. The widespread epidemic of Acute Poliomyelitis fortunately touched us very lightly. Two cases were notified, one a mild case the other severe which unfortunately afterwards proved fatal. For the first time I, in my position as your Medical Officer, have to record no notification of Diphtheria a dread disease particularly of the young and this, you must agree, must be chiefly due to the Immunisation that has been carried out. I again put on record my appreciation of the help given me by all members of the Council Staff.

Public Health Staff.

Clerk (full time): W. A Wilkinson.
Medical Officer of Health (part time): W. G. MacArthur.
Sanitary Inspector (full time): F. Metcalfe.
Additional Sanitary Inspector (full time):
R. M. Sharphouse.

SECTION A.

Statistic and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	71,544
Estimated residential population (R G's figures):	12,220
Number of inhabited houses ...	3.630
Rateable Value	£70,155
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£298

SECTION A.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	*Male*	*Female*	
Live Births—	265	146	119	Birth Rate per
Legitimate	253	140	113	1000 of the
Illegitimate	12	6	6	population 21.68
Still Births—	4	3	1	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	4	3	1	of all
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Births 15 09
Deaths—	148	89	59	Death Rate per 1000 of the population 12.11

Deaths from puerperal causes—

(from the R.G's short list)

No. 29	Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	Nil
No 30	Other maternal causes	1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

	Male	Female
Total Deaths	3	3
,, ,, Legitimate	3	2
,, ,, Illegitimate	—	1

All Infants per 1000 live births ...	22.64
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	19.76
Illegitimate Infants ,, illegitimate ,,	83.33
Deaths from Cancer all ages) (Headings 13—16 inclusive)	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 10)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 4	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) (Heading 25)	Nil

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff

See above.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years this is done for us at the Laboratory at the County Hall, Northallerton.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provides its own Ambulance which is constantly manned The drivers are extraordinarily adaptable and I very greatly appreciate their loyal help.

(c) Nursing in the home.

This is as it has been for years under the control of various nursing Committees.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Council does not undertake these and the arrangements are as in previous years.

(e) Hospitals.

There are no hospitals in the area under the control of the Council.

For Sections C D. and E see the accompanying report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

Diphtheria As mentioned earlier no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever 9 cases were notified They were all of a mild type and there was no epidemic.

Measles. 23 cases were notified mostly in Kirby Hill and Ellenthorpe areas. A few cases occurred in the Kilburn district. They were, with the exception of 5, of school age.

Whooping Cough. Three cases were notified, all of infants

Pneumonia Four cases were notified during the year. None of those reported proved fatal.

Puerperal Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No cases notified.

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Disease	*Total Cases notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total Deaths*
Scarlet Fever	9	8	Nil
Measles	23	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	4	Nil	Nil
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	2	Nil

I mentioned earlier that one of the cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified had unfortunately proved fatal This was not during the acute period but as the result of the paralysis and did not occur during the year 1947.

Age	*Disease Scarlet Fever*	*Disease Measles*	*Disease Pneumonia*	*Disease Poliomyelitis*
1 2	—	—	—	—
2-3	—	2	—	—
3-4	—	1	—	—
4-5	1	2	—	—
5-10	6	15	—	1
10-15	2	3	—	—
15-25	—	—	1	—
25-45	—	—	1	1
45-65	—	--	—	—
65 & over	—	—	2	—

3 Cancer. No action taken.

4 (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

This is as in previous years. The Tuberculosis Officer is exceedingly helpful in seeing cases either at the Rutson Hospital or, if necessary in the patients home. X-ray examination is carried out at Northallerton or Bedale or if necessary, and possible at the home of the patient, and the follow up case and treatment is undertaken by the County Council.

Age Periods	*New Cases* Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F	*Deaths* Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	-	—

25-35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	4	1	2	—	—	—	—

In the table of the Causes of Death one case is shown to have died from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System. This death was outside the area, but as a resident in the area, was transferred to the area.

Causes of Deaths in Thirsk Rural District Council in 1947.

	CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
6.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	1
9.	Influenza	—	1
12.	Acute Encephalitis	—	1
13.	Cancer of Oesophagus M — Uterus F.	1	2
14	Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	1	4
16.	Other sites — Cancer	8	5
17.	Diabetes	2	1
18.	Intra cranial Vascular Lesions	6	6
19.	Heart Diseases	42	21
20.	Other diseases of the Circulatory System	7	2
21.	Bronchitis	3	—
22.	Pneumonia	2	4
24.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	—
28.	Nephritis	3	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	—	1
32.	Congenital Malformation Birth Injury Infant dis:	2	2
33.	Suicide	1	1
35.	Violent Causes other than Road Traffic Accidents	—	1
36.	All other causes	5	4
	Totals	89	59

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MacARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual Report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the Year 1947.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report of the Sanitary Administration of the Area for the Year 1947.

Mr. R. M. Sharphouse has supplied the information on Housing and generally assisted in the compilation of this Report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. (1) No complaint was made as to the quality and quantity of the water supply in Thirsk or Sowerby supplied by the Thirsk and District Water Company, nor of the water supplied by the Council direct.

Unsatisfactory water supplies exist in the parishes of Norton-le-Clay, Skipton, Catton and Thirlby and the Thirsk District Water Company have been asked to provide supplies

Unsatisfactory supplies also exist at Ellenthorpe, Humberton, Thornton Bridge and the rural parts of Milby parish and a scheme is under consideration to supply same by extending the Langthorpe mains.

Similarly, it is proposed to extend the water main from the Pickhill Bore-hole in order to afford piped water to Ainderby Quernhow.

During the year the Thirsk and District Water Company commenced extending their mains to Newby Wiske and Maunby.

(2) Eight Bacteriological examinations were made of piped water supplies at Kilburn, Thirsk, Bagby, Langthorpe, Knayton and Thirlby. In the case of Thirlby the results showed contamination with Coliform organisms all of which appeared to belong to the intermediate aerogenes-cloacae or irregular type.

(3) No evidence of liability to plumbo solvent action.

(4) Where water supplies are found unfit, householders are warned to boil all water before drinking and, where practical, the water is chlorinated pending the carrying out of improvements.

(5) Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied from public mains in the district is as follows:—

Parish	Population	No. of Dwelling houses supplied with water from Mains direct	By Stand Pipe
Bagby	215	52	12
Balk	69	11	
Boltby	179	40	
Carlton Miniott	621	131	21
Dalton	259	52	18
Felixkirk	102	14	
Howe	40	6	
Hutton Sessay	94	23	
Kepwick	146	35	
Kilburn	281	57	11
Kirby Wiske	188	39	6
Knayton	277	63	3
Kirby Hill	155	17	10
Kirby Knowle	110	23	
Langthorpe	338	99	8
Milby	70	13	
Pickhill	291	49	12
Sinderby	97	12	4
Sandhutton	267	33	26
Sessay	260	61	5
South Otterington	289	54	11
South Kilvington	253	60	
Sutton	241	58	10

Topcliffe	530	112	8
Thirkleby	246	49	
Thornton-le-Street	132	16	
Thornton-le-Moor	248	73	8
Eldmire	54	9	
Fawdington	24	4	
Holme	42	11	3
Newsham	189	7	
North Kilvington	81	3	
Sowerby	2445	735	71
Thirsk	2332	556	230

Drainage and Sewerage.

No new works of Sewerage and Sewage disposal, nor additions were carried out during the year.

Public Cleansing.

The Council now undertake the Scavenging over the whole of their area, and include the emptying of Cesspools.

This work is carried out by direct labour. Ashpits and middens are emptied monthly, closet pails cleared weekly and dustbins in the two principal parishes weekly. Dustbins in many of the villages are at present emptied once each month only, but a more frequent service is intended so soon as vehicles and labour are more readily available.

Wet filth is disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes and other household refuse is tipped.

Towards the end of the year we obtained delivery of the new Dennis Cesspool Emptier so enabling much outstanding work in the emptying of Cesspools being brought up-to-date.

Salvage.

The total weight of Salvage collected and sold during the year was 29 tons and comprised Waste Paper 28½ tons, Bones ½ ton.

The total value of Salvage was approx. £190. A free collection of trade waste is made from local shops for the

alvage of waste Paper and Cardboard. Collections from houses and other premises are made on request.

Mileages of Vehicles.

	Water	Sewage	Scavenging	Salvage
Karrier No. 1	185	94	3439	193
,, No. 2	23		6591	29
,, No. 3	4		9651	
Dennis		79	315	
Morris Truck	7039	1272	700	725

Summary—		Total Miles
Water	7251	30339
Sewage	1445	
Scavenging	20696	
Salvage	947	

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, Infestation Order, 1943.

Your Rodent Officer carried out the following work during the year:—

Total Inspections made	1099
,, Re-inspections made	981
,, Infestations dealt with	170
,, Major Infestations	9
,, Heavy Minor Infestations	6
,, Minor Infestations	155

Poison baits used were Red Squill, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide.

Weight of Poison baits used	1966 oz.
Estimated Kill during the year	2376

Refuse Tips and Salvage premises were frequently visited and treated

No claim was made against the Council during the year of animals or poultry being poisoned.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total inspections made	1065
Total re-inspections made	169

Inspections of Houses (Public Health and Housing)	105
,, Farm and Dairy Premises	49
,, Food	25
,, Premises Essential Works	25
,, Factories	38
,, Fish and Chip Premises	6
,, Keeping of Animals	4
,, Infectious Diseases	9
,, Conveniences to Public Houses	29
,, Vermin	1

Visits re Water Supplies	26
,, Drainage	68
,, Sewage	35
,, Scavenging	43
,, Public Conveniences	26
,, Nuisances	87
,, Building Bye Laws	108
,, Petrol Storage	3
,, Miscellaneous	7
,, Civil Building Licences	302
,, Council Houses	102

Number of Premises requiring Sanitary Improvement	151
,, Nuisances dealt with	16
,, Houses disinfected	12
,, Houses treated for Vermin	2
,, Water Samples submitted for analysis	15
,, House drains tested	11
,, Sewers repaired or cleaned	93
,, Drains cleansed	92
,, Cellars cleared of flood water	4
,, Tanks cleaned out	122
,, Council Houses minor repairs	86

Notices, etc.

Informal Notices to Owners or Occupiers	97
Statutory Notices to Owners or Occupiers	6
Number of Letters sent out	686

Smoke abatement	...	No action
Swimming Bath	...	None
Bed Bugs	...	No action

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses	...	None
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	No action
Slaughterhouses	...	None
Shops	...	No action

Petroleum Regulations.

No of Licences issued:—Storage of Petrol		47
	Storage of Calcium Carbide	2

Housing.

Erection of New Houses.

1. By Local Authority.

(a) Permanent Houses.

Work on the traditional type houses on the Hambleton View Site, Thirsk, progressed steadily, despite continued difficulty in obtaining certain materials, and by the end of the year twenty were complete and occupied.

(b) Temporary Dwellings.

The hutted camp at Stoneybrough, Thirsk, vacated by the Army, was taken over in January with a view to the conversion of the buildings to temporary dwellings.

A limitation of expenditure of £70 per dwelling necessitated a careful watch of costs and some re-arrangement of the actual siting of the buildings was carried out to economize on sewage, water and electrical services. However, the finished dwellings—partitioned off to form living and bedrooms, and complete with cooking stove,

sink, larder, outside W.C., and fuel store—provided excellent temporary homes for thirty families.

Further sites were inspected, but owing to their isolated nature or the unsuitability of the buildings for conversion, were not taken over.

2. By private enterprise.

A total of 23 houses were erected during the year, 1 existing house was altered to form 2 separate dwellings and 3 buildings were adapted for living purposes, making 27 additional units of accommodation. The parishes concerned being as follows :—

Carlton Miniott	2	
Bagby	4	
Balk	1	(1 house to 2)
Knayton	4	
Kirby Hill	3	
Maunby	1	(building converted)
Norton-le-Clay	2	(building converted)
South Otterington	1	
Sowerby	1	
Thornton-le-Moor	5	
Thornton-le-Street	3	

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 320 houses were surveyed and placed n one of the following categories :—

(i) satisfactory in all respects.

(ii) minor defects.

(iii) requiring repair, structional alteration and improvement.

(iv) appropriate for re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

(v) unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

The results for each of the parishes concerned were as follows :—

Parish	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3 & 4	Class 5
Boltby	5	36	4	4
Bagby	7	39	5	8
Dalton	11	26	14	12
Sandhutton	7	24	15	20
Kilburn	6	33	15	12
Milby	5	7	5	—

By the end of the year a total of 2162 houses had been surveyed, representing 73% of the houses in the district coming within the scope of the survey.

Action under Housing Acts.

Sec. 9	(for repair of unfit house)	Nil.
Sec. 11	(for undertaking in respect of, or demolition of unfit house):	
	Notices served	1
	Undertakings accepted	Nil
	Houses demolished	1
Sec. 59	(overcrowding):	
	Abatement Notices served	Nil
	Cases abated	11

Control of Civil Building.

Number of Building Licences issued	603
Number of Certificates to purchase Controlled Materials	107

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

During the year 15 persons were registered as wholesalers and producers of milk and 2 persons as retailers.

49 visits were made in connection with milk production.

Tuberculin tested milk is sold retail in Thirsk and Sowerby, the milk being purchased in bottles and collected direct from the farm on which it is produced.

6 Notices were served for compliance with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, namely :—

For construction of floors and drainage in Cowsheds	3
Provision of sufficient Water Supply for Dairy	1
Provision of sufficient Water Supply and windows in cowsheds ...	2

Total number of farms and other premises as Dairies on Register 189, namely :—

Cowkeepers and wholesale Traders	165
Cowkeepers and wholesale and retail Traders	14
Cowkeepers and retailers only	9
Retailers and not Cowkeepers	1

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The slaughtering of animals for food is carried out at the Ministry of Food Abattoir, Northallerton, and the meat conveyed by motor transport to Thirsk and the district for allocation to the butchers.

This vehicle is kept under supervision as also are the butchers' shops for general cleanliness.

5 Fish and Chip premises were registered under Section 14 (2) of Food and Drugs Act 1938, following the carrying out of improvements for compliance with the Act.

During the year the following foods were condemned as unfit :—72 tins of Milk, 104 lbs. Biscuits, 13 tins Beans 2 tins Veals, 2 tins Meat Roll, 6 tins Stewed Steak, 1 tin Pork & Beef, 16 lbs Corned Beef, 22 lbs. Bacon, 4 tins of Fish, 53 tins of Jam, 2 tins Peas, 1 tin Spaghette, 3 tins Steak & Kidney Pudding, 5 tins Sausage Meat, 2 tins Soup, 1 tin Tomatoes, 1 tin Mincemeat, 1 tin Mor, 2 tins Prem.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Surveyor, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector.